

WASHINGTON-Congressman Spencer Bachus is pleased to announce the passage of H.R. 1516 that would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to create a national cemetery in Birmingham. "It is only fitting those in Alabama who have served our country with honor are afforded a final resting place near their loved ones", Bachus said.

No later than four years after the date of enactment, six new national cemeteries will be created in the following areas: southeastern Pennsylvania; Birmingham, Alabama; Jacksonville, Florida; Sarasota, Florida; Bakersfield, California; and Greenville/Columbia, South Carolina.

In choosing the specific sites for the new cemeteries, the bill requires the VA Secretary to solicit the advice of representatives of State and local veterans' organizations. Once that is done, the Secretary will submit a report to Congress within 120 days of enactment setting forth the five areas where those cemeteries will be established, a schedule for establishment, the estimated cost associated with establishment, and the amount of Advance Planning Funds obligated for this purpose.